



Protecting health from climate change: Preparedness of medical interns

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Abstract:

CONTEXT: Climate change is a significant and emerging threat to public health and to meet the challenge, health systems require qualified staff. AIMS: To study the preparedness of medical interns to meet the challenge of protecting health from climate change. SETTINGS and DESIGN: Medical colleges in a coastal town. Cross-sectional study. MATERIALS and METHODS: A proportionate number of medical interns from five medical colleges were included in the study. Level of awareness was used as a criterion to judge the preparedness. A self-administered, pretested, open-ended questionnaire was used. Responses were evaluated and graded. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS USED: Proportions, percentage, Chi-test. RESULTS: About 90% of the medical interns were aware of the climate change and human activities that were playing a major role. Ninety-four percent were aware of the direct health impacts due to higher temperature and depletion in ozone concentration, and about 78% of the respondents were aware about the change in frequency / distribution of vector-borne diseases, water borne / related diseases, malnutrition, and health impact of population displacement. Knowledge regarding health protection was limited to mitigation of climate change and training / education. Options like adaptation, establishing / strengthening climate and disease surveillance systems, and health action in emergency were known to only nine (7%), eight (6%), and 17 (13%), respectively. Collegewise difference was statistically insignificant. Extra / co-curricular activities were the major source of knowledge. CONCLUSIONS: Majority of medical interns were aware of the causes and health impacts of climate change, but their knowledge regarding health protection measures was limited.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2822192>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Other Communication Audience: Medical interns

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Solar Radiation, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Wildfires

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: India

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Cholera, Cryptosporidiosis, E. coli, General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Giardiasis, Leptospirosis, Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Tick-borne Disease: Lyme Disease, Tick-borne Encephalitis

Zoonotic Disease: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Tularemia, Other Zoonotic Disease

Zoonotic Disease (other): Viral hemorrhagic diseases

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

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Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly

Other Vulnerable Population: Pre-existing health conditions

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified